



Oifig um Sholáthar Rialtais Office of Government Procurement

OGP Newsletter



Welcome

Like you, the OGP has faced the considerable challenges during this pandemic and has worked to ensure our activities continue as efficiently as possible so that your requirements are met. In this newsletter you will find information about our ongoing activities, including procuring thousands of laptops to support remote learning in the education sector. We also provide details on how to access our framework in this area as well as our own top tips for conducting remote evaluations.

For the future, the Programme for Government sets out an ambitious agenda for public procurement. Alongside continuing to achieve value for money for the taxpayer, providing for better social and environmental outcomes through procurement is a key objective for the Government. The Programme calls for a partnership approach, working with suppliers and the public service to promote innovation and achieve common goals.

A great example of this is the Commercial Skills Academy which will be instrumental in driving the delivery of the National Development Plan and Project Ireland 2040. The main aim of the Academy is to provide public servants with an understanding of key issues, commercial skills and best practice approaches for project delivery. In future editions of this newsletter we will give you a comprehensive look at the team and the work they are progressing.

In this issue we also provide an update on the collaborative effort that is going into the development of a replacement for our current eTenders platform. (p8 & p9)

Our policy team explain the guidance they have put in place for organisations managing the impact of Covid and preparing for Brexit, with Information Notes that can be found on our website. (p2 & p3)

You can read about the OGP's guidance supporting the deployment of cloud computing across the public service which was launched by the Minister recently. (p12)

I am delighted to advise that the OGP recently won in three categories at this year's annual Procurement Awards. For Robotic Process Automation Software - crew on winning The Most Innovative Use of Technology award, the eInvoicing Ireland Programme on winning Best Procurement External Collaboration Project of the Year, and an overall award for Excellence in Procurement. These exciting projects reflect the very best of the OGP, working to improve delivery of services to the public through innovation and digitalisation. (p4 & p5, & p14)

Finally, the OGP's Statement of Strategy 2021-2023 sets out our mission to shape the future of public procurement, delivering long-term value for the public through high-quality procurement services that our people are proud to provide. A summary of the Strategy is included in this edition.

Paul Quinn
Chief Procurement Officer

For regular updates on the Office's work, you can visit the website at ogp.gov.ie and also

ogp.gov.ie

Brexit

Throughout 2020, the OGP continued its preparations for the end of the Brexit Transition period on 31 December 2020. The OGP has liaised closely with the structures across Government under the coordination of the Assistant Secretaries Group on Brexit Readiness. It has maintained close contact with the EU Commission in relation to Brexit-related developments in the area of public procurement. Specific provisions on public procurement were included in the EU-UK Trade & Cooperation Agreement concluded at the end of December 2020.

The OGP has carried out extensive stakeholder engagement with public bodies to prepare for the end of the Transition period. It has advised on the need for detailed localised contingency planning by public bodies and advised them to continue to identify risks and engage with key suppliers to assess potential impacts on their supply chains, and to put in place mitigation measures. A further detailed Information Note on Brexit and Public Procurement was provided for all public bodies in December 2020 (the fourth edition) and is available on our website here. This series of Information Notes will continue to be updated as Brexit-related developments arise.

The Policy unit is also assisting the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment at the EU Council in the consideration of development of the International Procurement Instrument (IPI) now being progressed under the Portuguese Presidency which commenced on 1 January 2021. The IPI was reported on in the last newsletter.



COVID-19 INFORMATION NOTE

To support contracting authorities manage procurements where urgency was required to deliver essential services at the onset of the Covid-19 crises, the OGP developed a comprehensive information note for use by all public bodies, informing them of the flexibilities contained in the public procurement rules. Where the procurement is unaffected by Covid-19 related issues, contracting authorities should ensure their procurements use competitive processes to ensure value for money, transparency and equal treatment, as detailed in our National Public Procurement Guidelines.

Enterprise Ireland and the OGP organised an online “Connecting Manufacturers of PPE and Covid related products to the Public Sector” event which was held on Thursday 28th January. The event, which was free, gave suppliers the opportunity to connect with public sector bodies across a number of sectors, such as Education and Central Government, in short one to one meetings. The purpose of the event was to highlight the capacity and capabilities of Irish manufacturers of PPE and Covid-19 related products that have emerged during this pandemic. Information on the products showcased will be made available.

EUROPEAN INTERACTIONS

The Policy unit continued to attend remote meetings of the expert groups established by the EU Commission to coordinate public procurement across Member States. These groups include:

- Commission Expert Group on Public Procurement (EXPP)
- Commission Expert Group on eProcurement (EXEP)
- First Instance Network Group (FING)

Strategic Engagement

The groups deal with, amongst other things:

- the proper functioning of the Internal Market in relation to public procurement policy;
- assisting the Commission in relation to the implementation of existing Union legislation, programmes;
- assisting the Commission in the preparation of legislative proposals and policy initiatives;
- eProcurement Policy / Strategy / Governance Issues reporting arrangements; and
- Implementation of eProcurement / sharing best practices and following new developments in the field / address issues of interoperability in this area.
- Cohesion of implementing measures for remedies.

Like the rest of the public sector, the OGP Policy Unit has had to innovate new ways to work in response to Covid-19, including finding new means to fulfil our responsibilities for strategic engagement at a national and international level where we represent the State on matters relating to public procurement.

At the National level, the Minister of State, Ossian Smyth, chaired his first meeting of the SME Advisory Group on 8th September 2020 via video conferencing in line with the commitments in the Programme for Government. The SME Advisory Group was established in 2014 to address issues affecting SME participation in public procurement. The group which meets quarterly is a forum that allows the voice of SMEs through their representative bodies. The terms of reference for the group which was updated in late 2019 and minutes of previous meetings can be found here. Having traditionally taken place quarterly, that was the first meeting of the Group in 2020 due to the onset of COVID and the awaited formation of the new Government. The Minister of State chaired his second meeting of the Group on 30th November 2020.



Strategic Procurement

Strategic public procurement can play a key role in responding to societal, environmental and economic challenges and, as such, the inclusion of strategic public policy considerations in procurement processes is a key feature of the Programme for Government. The OGP established the cross Departmental Social Considerations Advisory Group in March 2019, bringing together officials from policy Departments with procurement practitioners to

share best practice in relevant fields to facilitate the process of incorporating such considerations into public procurement.

The Programme for Government commitments in relation to public procurement includes evaluating and managing the environmental, economic and social impacts of procurement strategies within the state, developing and implementing a sustainable procurement policy and tasking the OGP to update all procurement frameworks in line with green procurement practice. This provided an opportunity for the role of the group to be reviewed.

A meeting of the group was convened via video conferencing on 22nd September 2020 which was attended by the Minister of State Ossian Smyth. The Social Considerations Advisory Group has been renamed the Strategic Procurement Advisory Group to reflect the strategic commitments set out in the Programme for Government, with a review of the Terms of Reference of the Group and to broaden participation by members in promoting and aligning the groups aims with their own Programme for Government commitments.

A further meeting was held on 8th December and will they³will continue to meet quarterly.

Robotic Process Automatic

Framework Agreement for the provision Robotic Process Automation (RPA) Software – Training, Support, and Services

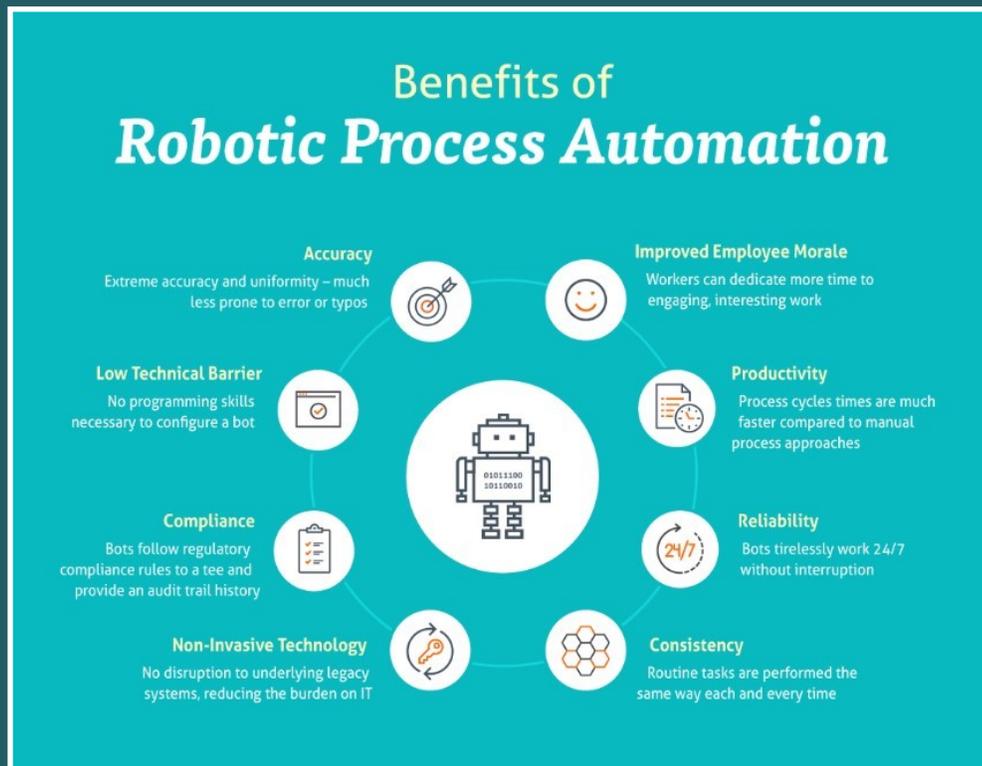
A key element of the OGP's remit is to deliver strategic, high priority projects for the public sector and provide compliant framework solutions that enable strategic Government policy initiatives to be implemented.

Robotic Process Automation (RPA) is an excellent example of an OGP Collaborative Framework which was developed and delivered to support and implement Government policy in regard to Innovation (Our Public Service 2020) that has already changed and will continue to change how the Public Sector will deliver its services in the future.

RPA technology is a piece of software that mimics the activities that a human would undertake in completing a process. A software robot can work 24/7 but can only do one task at a time. RPA involves the automation of rules-based processes that are traditionally performed by employees.

The volume of Data to be processed to produce information and reports to inform Government decision makers has been growing exponentially year on year. The challenge across the public service is to deliver these tasks more efficiently and maintain or improve accuracy, while simultaneously empowering Public sector staff through

training, upskilling and support to become self-sufficient in Robotic Process Automation (RPA) without a corresponding increase in cost.



Robotic Process Automatic

The OGP through the SPOT BUY Team and in close collaboration with the DPER Innovation Unit have designed and delivered a Single Supplier Framework that provides 3 individual RPA Software vendors through one implementation partner (Deloitte LLC) to ensure that the Irish Public and Civil service do not Fragment the Market nor create a monopoly.

This FW was constructed to ensure this innovative technology was embedded across the Public and Civil service and that Centres of Excellence (CoE) are created and knowledge and Automations shared across Departments . The RPA Vendors available are all equally proficient at Automating processes however each Software Vendor have their own unique features which Framework clients can discuss with Deloitte. A key design feature of the Framework was to ensure all FW Clients become Self Sufficient in whatever RPA Software Vendor was deployed within their Organisation through competitively priced Accredited Training programs at Beginner/Intermediate and Advanced levels.



All services are drawn down directly via Notification To Activate Services under a Framework Agreement (NASFs) and not mini-competitions to deliver the following services to the Clients

- The supply, renewal and installation of RPA licences
- The provision of RPA Training and Development
- The provision of RPA Software Vendor expert technical support
- The provision of RPA and RPA-related consultancy services

The Direct Drawdown mechanism has been essential in the fast delivery of Covid Critical services throughout the Pandemic.

Re-launch of OGP Buyer Zone client website

The OGP launched a new Buyer Zone website for clients to find details of the full range of framework agreements and solutions available to the public service. This new service has been designed with an improved search function in response to client feedback.

How do you access the new Buyer Zone?

If you are already registered on the Buyer Zone, the only requirement to access the new site will be to reset your password at your first login attempt. All existing usernames will remain unchanged.

What are the security features?

One of the new security features is a two-step authentication process to login. A secure link is sent to the registered email address of each user each time they login. This link is valid for one “click” only. It can be resent by the user to another email account (Gmail/yahoo for example) if the user wishes to access the Buyer Zone on a different device. Once you access the Buyer Zone, your session remains live for as long as there is activity recorded on the site. If a user does not perform any action for a consecutive sixty-minute period, they will be logged out of the Buyer Zone.

How do I perform a search to find active/live contracts?



The magnifying glass activates the search within the new Buyer Zone by keywords.

Another option to refine your search is the Current Arrangements document (available on the landing page), this includes direct links to all contracts divided by OGP categories.

We recognise that it will take users some time to adapt to the new layout and to navigate it swiftly, but we are confident the search functionality has been optimised and that finding available contracts for goods and services will be easier for OGP clients.

The current project has focused on rebuilding the Buyer Zone on its new platform, improving security for commercially sensitive framework information, and enhancing search functionality.

Should you have any questions about finding information on the new Buyer Zone, please contact the OGP at support@ogp.gov.ie for assistance.

Top Tips for conducting procurement while working remotely

For many organisations recent months have seen remote working become a central way of doing business and this is likely continue for the foreseeable future. This applies equally to the OGP where all of our staff are equipped to work remotely and have procurement solutions to support Contracting Authorities in delivering their procurement needs.

From our experience in working with clients who may also be working remotely we have found that flexibility is the key to progressing a competition. We remain committed to working flexibly with you to overcome challenges that occur as a result of remote collaboration.

We have identified several tips that may help you to progress your procurements in as effective and efficient manner as possible in a remote environment:

1

Remote evaluations can be more tiring than face to face meetings. Multiple short evaluations sessions may achieve a faster and better outcome than a single long session.

To maximise the effectiveness of the time you spend evaluating we recommend that:

- Any technology being used which you are not familiar with is tested prior to the meeting
- Evaluators have read and are familiar with the RFT/sRFT with particular emphasis on the scope, specifications, Selection Criteria and Award Criteria
- All bids are read in advance of the evaluation
- All clarifications have been asked prior to the evaluation

2

Factor the availability of key personnel (e.g. evaluators, contract managers, key decision makers etc) and any additional contract approval mechanisms required by your organisation into your planning to have a contract in place. Access to these resources can be complicated in a remote environment.

3

eSignature can be used in a remote environment for outcome letters or contract signature if your organisation has the required technology

4

Where the competition may require a site visit consider if these can be facilitated either in person or if there are virtual options available

5

Remember that bids are confidential. Consider how you will dispose of the bid confidentially if you are printing a hard copy in a remote environment

6

Confidentiality/Conflict of Interest declarations still need to be signed by all members of the evaluation panel. A scanned signature, using a mobile phone, can easily be added to the document and could suffice if access to a printer or scanner is a problem

eTenders

The eTenders Platform Project – Collaborative Process and Design

The OGP established the eTenders Platform project to specify, procure and implement the next contract for the eTenders Platform. The preparation of the specification is now at an advanced stage. This update provides an insight into the inclusive and robust nature of the OGP's approach to establishing a solution 'with', rather than just 'for', our sector partners and other groups that are key stakeholders in a national eTendering platform for public procurement.

eTenders is the national facility for all public sector Contracting Authorities to publish procurement opportunities (tenders) and contract award notices for goods, services and works. eTenders is also used by economic operators (suppliers) to view and access tender opportunities. The eTenders platform currently has in the region of 181,500 registered entities – comprising approximately 7,135 Contracting Authorities and 174,458 Economic Operators.

Given the scale and diversity of the user base, and other stakeholder groups, which the eTenders Platform serves, the OGP has been determined from the outset to apply an inclusive and robust approach – the goal being to establish the next iteration of the Platform 'with' stakeholders rather than just 'for' them.

An inclusive approach requires an open mind and a significant investment in time and effort by all parties involved. It requires an ability to share, to listen, to understand and to empathise with the perspectives of other parties that have a stake in the eTenders platform. This is challenging and takes time but the reward is a greater understanding of what is important to these groups and how an eTendering Platform can be better leveraged to meet the needs of a diverse group of users and stakeholders.

To that end, the OGP, via the eTenders Platform Project, has established a governance model and a design process that leverages and depends on the guidance, support and expertise of Senior management and Procurement subject matter experts from within the OGP itself and across the public sector. Key components of this include:

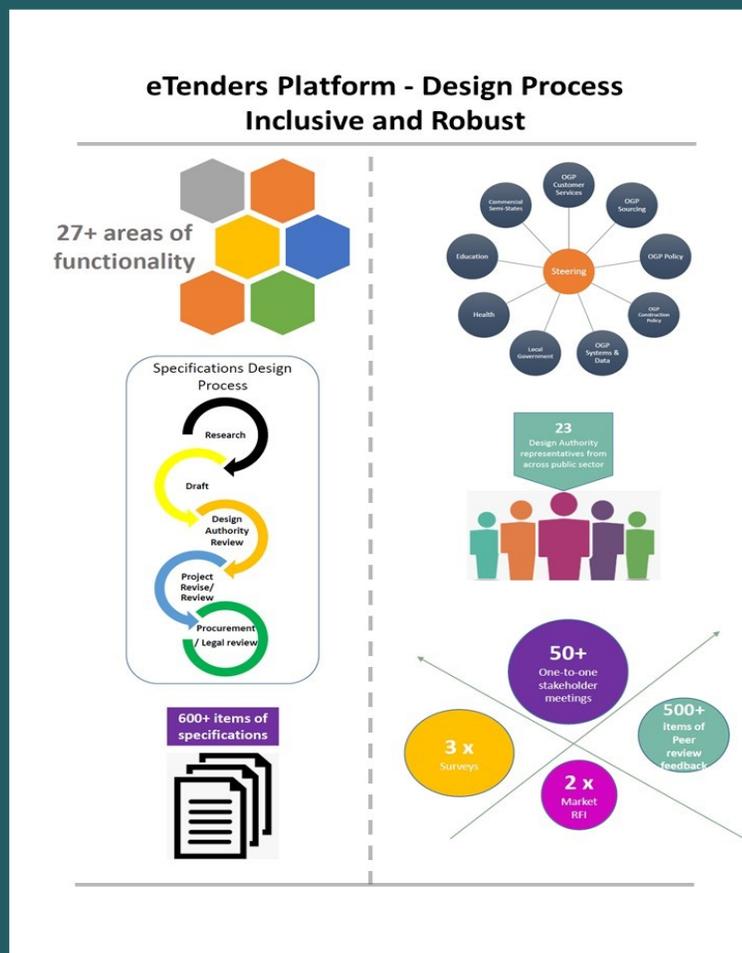
- **Steering Committee** (comprising senior management representatives from OGP, Local Government, Health, Education and the Commercial Semi-State sectors – covering supplies, services and works)
- **Design Authority group** (comprising policy, management and procurement experts and practitioners from OGP, Local Government, Health, Education and the Commercial Semi-State sectors – covering supplies, services and works)
- **Collaboration across OGP functions** to help develop and refine outputs

eTenders

In addition to the governance and process components, the OGP has carried out a range of activities to help better develop its knowledge of the market and understand different the perspectives, including:

- Market research into eTendering solutions
- Liaising with other Member States to learn from their experiences
- Surveying the views of both Contracting Authorities and Economic Operators
- One-to-one meetings with a wide range of public sector stakeholders

In particular, the Design Authority's role has been vital, acting in effect as an extensive and comprehensive peer network to contribute to and review the requirements being specified. This draft-review-revise cycle has helped to improve the quality of, and confidence in the specifications as the teams involved in the project now make the final preparations for the publication of the tender.



Minister McGrath and Minister of State Smyth launch guidance to support public procurement of cloud computing services

The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Michael McGrath TD and Minister of State for Public Procurement and eGovernment Ossian Smyth TD, welcome the publication of new guidance from the Office of Government Procurement supporting the deployment of cloud computing across the public service.

The Office of Government Procurement's Cloud Services Procurement Guidance Note has been issued to assist public sector organisations to navigate the complexity associated with contracting for cloud services and to manage the key contractual and commercial differences between traditional ICT contracts and cloud services contracts.

Public sector organisations can use the guidance note as a useful, easy-reference toolkit to assist them when preparing tender documentation and service contracts. The detailed information contained in the guidance note will help public sector organisations to avail of the value in cloud services through tendering in an informed manner and in compliance with public procurement regulations.

The note builds on existing guidance issued by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer that recognises the many advantages and benefits associated with the use of cloud computing services and that recommends deployment of cloud solutions for all new and renewed Government systems.

Minister McGrath and Minister of State Smyth launch guidance to support public procurement of cloud computing services

“the Programme for Government sets out a clear ambition for Ireland's digital future. The public service needs to be at the forefront of driving digital transformation and delivering greater integration of digital services and significant progress has been made in the past twelve months in facilitating more people to interact online with public services. Supporting more public bodies in making an early move to cloud computing will help to further deliver on this ambition.”

Michael McGrath, T.D.
Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform

An Roinn Caiteachais
Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe
Department of Public
Expenditure and Reform

gov.ie/per | @IRLDeptPER | linkedin.com/company/dper

The Cloud Services Procurement Guidance Note is part of the Office of Government Procurement's ongoing provision of advice and guidance to support better procurement across the public service and is available here: <https://ogp.gov.ie/information-notes/>

OGP Supports & Engagements

Procurement Officers Forum



 Oifig um Sholáthar Rialtais
Office of Government Procurement

Procurement Officer Forum for Public Service Bodies

The Office of Government Procurement is holding a programme of Procurement Forums throughout 2021

Save the Dates

- 23rd March 2021
- 18th May 2021
- 14th September 2021
- 7th December 2021

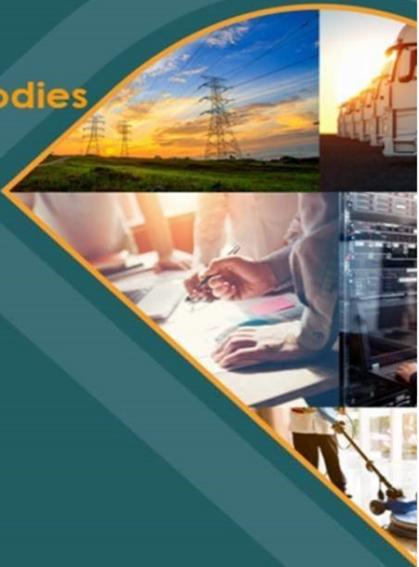
Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Key subjects will include

- **Brexit**
- Green Procurement
- Social Considerations

If you wish to be included on the invite list, please email
Kenneth.Dover@ogp.gov.ie

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Commercial Skills Academy



 Oifig um Sholáthar Rialtais
Office of Government Procurement

Commercial Skills Academy

Module 2- Selection and appointment of Consultants, Specialists and Contractors for Public Works Projects

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Our Commercial Skills Academy delivered Module 2 training on Public Capital Works Projects in conjunction with training partners The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland and The Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland. Module 2 covers selection/appointment of Consultants, Specialists and Contractors for projects.

The Commercial Skills Academy, with input from Construction Policy and staff across the Public Service, have developed a suite of Training suitable for staff involved at all levels. The Training is organised on a Tiered system, from Foundation level to Experienced. Register interest in upcoming training by emailing: csacademy@ogp.gov.ie

OGP wins at the National Procurement Awards

The annual National Procurement Awards took place virtually this year and the Office of Government was shortlisted in three categories and we are delighted to announce that we won in all three of them. Robotic Process Automation Software - crew on winning The Most Innovative Use of Technology award

We are delighted to be recognised by the judging panel for our two great digital projects which were deployed to assist the public service, including our response to Covid19.



Congratulations to Declan McCormack and the team involved with the eInvoicing Ireland Programme on winning Best Procurement External Collaboration Project of the Year

To Derek Melia and his Robotic Process Automation Software crew on winning The Most Innovative Use of Technology award!

There was one overall award for Excellence in Procurement and we also won that!

We are delighted to be recognised by the judging panel for our two great digital projects which were deployed to assist the public service, including our response to Covid19.



to



Both Minister McGrath and Minister of State Smyth have congratulated everyone involved.



Supporting the education sector in procuring nearly 17,000 notebook PCs for third level students.

As a direct result of Covid-19 and the need for remote learning, laptops were to be lent out to 3rd level students who would not otherwise have remote access to online learning facilities.

Our client HEAnet (Higher Education Authority Network) placed a bulk order of 16,700 devices on behalf of a cross-section of Higher and Further Education customers, including third level institutions and Education Training Boards. The devices procured under this arrangement will be owned by the institutions and provided on a loan basis to students. The approximate value of the bulk order is €9m representing a significant investment in the future workforce of the country and ensuring the country's educational providers can continue to do their work.

The bulk order was possible due to an existing drawdown contract which HEAnet established under the OGP's Framework for Personal and Notebook Computers. A procurement framework, more commonly known as a Framework Agreement, is an arrangement which allows a customer (in this case HEAnet) to run a competitive process amongst a panel of pre-approved suppliers to identify the most suitable supplier from a value for money perspective. This negates the need to go out to tender each time a requirement arises, thus speeding up the process considerably.

Coordinating with HEAnet, the OGP played a central role in implementing the drawdown contract to meet the ongoing requirements of HEAnet customers – which include educational institutions of all types. This included coordinating and managing the competition process, providing template documents, and ensuring that procurement legislation was complied with throughout.

Prior to the placing of the bulk order under this drawdown contract, the OGP again liaised with HEAnet and the Department of Education to advise on the feasibility of the planned purchase with respect to procurement legislation. Additionally, OGP's continuous engagement with suppliers to determine market conditions helped to inform HEAnet's approach to negotiating the purchase.

The OGP ICT Hardware team will continue to engage with HEAnet in order to monitor the value of throughput through the direct drawdown contract and to arrange for renewal of the contract when necessary to ensure there are no gaps in service.

In addition to assisting HEAnet with the establishment of the education sector-specific drawdown agreement, the ICT Hardware team has also established a drawdown agreement for general use by public sector bodies for similar equipment. €6.9m has been spent under this drawdown agreement since its establishment in July 2019. This arrangement was of crucial importance during Q2—Q3 of 2020, when many OGP clients had sudden and substantial requirements for laptops to enable working from home.

For a full list of current arrangements from the OGP please visit [here](#).



Office of Government Procurement

Statement of Strategy

2021—2023

Our Vision

To enable transparent, accessible, responsive and sustainable public procurement.



Our Mission

To shape the future of public procurement, delivering long-term value for the public through high-quality procurement services which our people are proud to provide.



Our Values

In addition to the core Civil Service values of honesty, integrity, impartiality and objectivity, the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) has its own set of values which we endeavour to bring to everything we do.

These values are important, particularly as the OGP is a young organisation, developing innovative new approaches to how the public service conducts its business and leading on the professionalisation of public procurement. Our values will be reviewed and refreshed as the organisation continues to develop.

- We communicate openly and honestly.
- The capability and engagement of our people is the key driver of our service.
- We plan effectively to deliver our service and take responsibility for our results.

Office of Government Procurement

Statement of Strategy 2021—2023

OGP Strategic Objectives

1) Shape the Future of Public Procurement

To enable better and more transparent public procurement that is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable through guidance, advisory services and training.

2) Deliver Customer Focused Procurement Solutions

To provide a range of flexible, quality, customer-focused procurement solutions for the public service.

3) Embrace Digitalisation

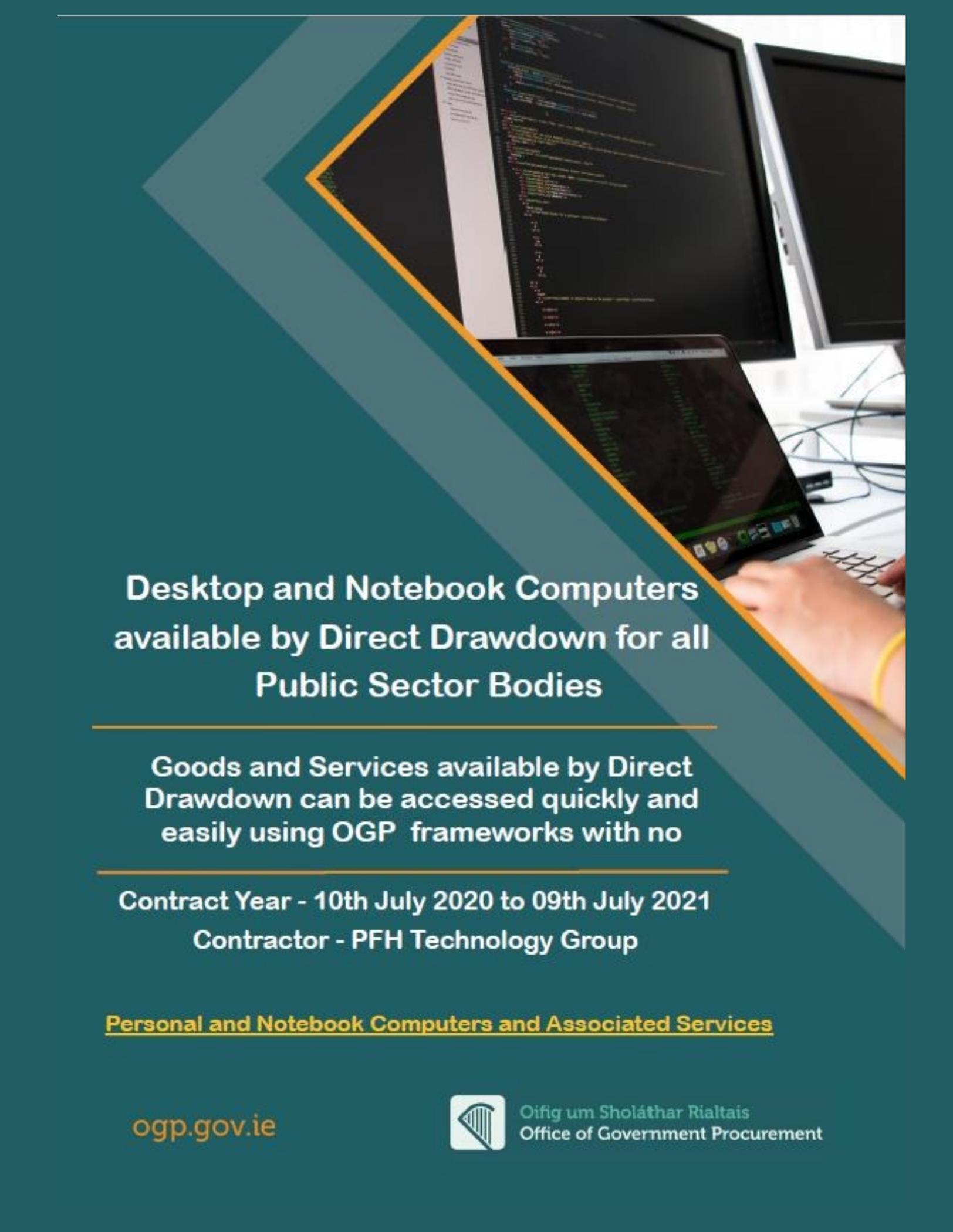
To accelerate the digital delivery of our services in an accessible, consistent and intuitive way.

4) Engage Effectively with Stakeholders

To engage and communicate effectively with stakeholders, delivering a better understanding of public procurement and a quality customer experience.

5) Develop the OGP as a World-Class Service

To develop the Office of Government Procurement as a world-class service that provides leadership, best practices and development opportunities for our people across the organisation as well as meeting our Public Sector Human Rights and Equality obligations.



Desktop and Notebook Computers available by Direct Drawdown for all Public Sector Bodies

**Goods and Services available by Direct
Drawdown can be accessed quickly and
easily using OGP frameworks with no**

**Contract Year - 10th July 2020 to 09th July 2021
Contractor - PFH Technology Group**

Personal and Notebook Computers and Associated Services

ogp.gov.ie



Oifig um Sholáthar Rialtais
Office of Government Procurement



This Direct Drawdown arrangement is expected to cater for 25% of all public sector Desktop and Notebook needs from 2019 to 2023, which equates to more than 10,000 devices annually.

Direct drawdown of personal computers is available for public bodies with small to medium requirements. Details in relation to what lot to use are available [online](#). Larger requirements can be met by mini-competition under the same framework agreement.

The advantages include:

- No need to run a competition which means reduced effort and reduced time.
- Stock of standard devices available for delivery within 10 days.
- Standard manufacturer's warranty of 3 years (can be extended to 5 years).
- Online web portal to configure and order devices and services.
- Supplier phone and email support to assist users as necessary.

Following devices available for delivery within 10 days:

Following devices available for delivery within 10 days:

- Standard Desktop Computer
- Mini Desktop Computer (VESA mountable)
- Standard 15.6" Notebook
- Lightweight 14" Notebook
- Ultraportable 13" Notebook

Upgrades and accessories such as:

- Upgrades to CPU, RAM, Storage and other elements
- Accessories, including monitors, keyboards, adapters, etc.

A range of associated services are also available, including:

- Basic and advanced installation
- Image creation, deployment and maintenance
- Hard drive destruction
- 24x7 and International support

Please visit the [OGP website](#) to access full details, see the relevant user guides and find the contact details for the suppliers (OGP Buyer Zone user id and password required).

Battery Electric Vehicles

The Irish Government's Climate Action Plan (2019) sets out its planned actions and timelines for achieving decarbonisation targets. Action Number 149 of the Plan seeks to "enable the deployment of electric vehicles in public sector fleets".

The OGP Fleet and Plant Team have delivered a strategy that is flexible to continue to purchase Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles, but also cater for electric vehicles.



To mitigate against market uncertainties, and to accommodate the period of rapid technological development it had to adopt a flexible and dynamic approach to the procurement of cars and vans. This strategy needed to ensure that public sector clients have an up-to date and relevant menu of products to meet changing demands and a solution for fleet contracts.

In order to meet the deadlines set by Government, the OGP advertised mini-competitions for battery electric vehicles before Q2 of 2020 on behalf of the Irish Public Sector:

- Medium-Range Passenger Car (driving range of between 250-349kms)
- Long-Range Passenger Car (driving range of >350kms)
- Small Panel Van, Range >190km (3.5m³ to 4.5m³ cubic capacity payload range)
- Medium Panel Van, Range >115km, (5.5m³ to 8.5m³ cubic capacity payload range)

In order to meet government's own strategic plans for curbing vehicle emissions the OGP has lead the way in this effort for the Public Sector, working in tandem with;

- Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI),
- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications,
- Department of Transport,

The efforts of all external parties involved, through surveying of customers, the development, refinement, and approving specifications, to evaluating and awarding, have played a major role in delivering these strategic competitions.

Due to the global pandemic, and restrictions throughout Europe, hampering production and communications in the majority of car manufacturing plants, we had to extend a number of deadlines for our competitions. However, the OGP have been able to award contracts for our battery electric vehicles, these are all zero tailpipe emissions and they are currently available for clients to drawdown from with ease.